

Appl. No. 10/674,923
Amdt. dated November 18, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 22, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the Office action dated August 22, 2005, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 25-26 as allegedly anticipated by McClurg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,886,104); 2) rejected claims 10 and 20 as allegedly unpatentable over McClurg in view of Wood (U.S. Pat. No. 6,178,514); 3) rejected claim 28 as allegedly unpatentable over McClurg and Wood and further in view of Atkinson (U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,049); 4) rejected claim 29 as allegedly unpatentable over McClurg and Wood in view of Cho (U.S. Pat. No. 6,119,237); 5) rejected claims 30-31 as allegedly unpatentable over McClurg in view of Beckert (U.S. Pat. No. 6,009,363); 6) rejected claim 32 as allegedly unpatentable over McClurg and Beckert and further in view of Wood; 7) rejected claim 33 as allegedly unpatentable over McClurg, Beckert and Wood and further in view of Atkinson; and 8) allowed claims 1 and 27.

With this Response, Applicants amend claim 26, and present new claims 34-36. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWED AND EFFECTIVELY ALLOWED CLAIMS

The Office action dated August 22, 2005 allowed claim 1, and objected to claim 27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable. However, claim 27 is dependent from claim 1, and thus is not dependent from a rejected base claim. Thus, claim 27 should also be in a condition for allowance.

Further, Applicants present new claims 34-36, which depend directly from allowed claim 1, and thus these claims should be allowed.

II. SECTION 102 REJECTIONS

A. Claim 26

Claim 26 stands rejected as allegedly anticipated by McClurg. Applicants amend claim 26 to obviate the interpretation of the Office action that the claimed modes are not mutually exclusive. However, a laptop computer operating under the USB protocol is a master capable of supplying power, and thus the amendments are not narrowing amendments.

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McClurg is directed to a rechargeable mobile hand-held fingerprint scanner with data and power communication interface. (McClurg Title). In particular, McClurg discloses a fingerprint scanner that has an internal rechargeable power supply 120 for standalone operation, and when the fingerprint scanner is docked for exchange of data, the rechargeable power supply is recharged. (McClurg Col. 3, lines 8-28). McClurg further discloses an example of a data and power interface 130 that allows data exchange and recharging to be a USB interface. (McClurg Col. 3, lines 29-32). McClurg does not appear to disclose, however, that the fingerprint scanner should provide power to any external device. In fact, the Office action agrees with this and admits this fact as a matter of law, "McClurg does not teach that his device powers downstream devices." (Office action dated August 22, 2005, page 7, number paragraph 15.)

Claim 26, by contrast, specifically recites, "a laptop computer coupled to said device by way of a communication bus that, in a first mode, operates under the Universal Serial Bus (USB) protocol and is capable of supplying power across the power lines communication bus..." "McClurg does not teach that his device powers downstream devices." (Office action dated August 22, 2005, page 7, number paragraph 15.)

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26, and all claims that depend from claim 26 (claims 25 and 28-29), should be allowed.

III. SECTION 103 REJECTIONS

A. Claim 10

Claim 10 stands rejected as allegedly obvious over McClurg in view of Wood.

McClurg is directed to a rechargeable mobile hand-held fingerprint scanner with data and power communication interface. (McClurg Title). In particular, McClurg discloses a fingerprint scanner that has an internal rechargeable power supply 120 for standalone operation, and when the fingerprint scanner is docked for exchange of data, the rechargeable power supply is recharged. (McClurg Col. 3, lines 8-28). McClurg further discloses an example of a data and power

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interface 130 that allows data exchange and recharging to be a USB interface. (McClurg Col. 3, lines 29-32).

Wood is directed to a method and apparatus for connecting a device to a bus carrying power and a signal. (Wood Title). In particular, Wood appears to be directed to an apparatus which draws power from a bus in conformance with a bus-standard (e.g., USB) and stores the energy, then provides power to a device (e.g., a speaker) which would otherwise instantaneously draw too much power under the bus-standard. (See e.g., Wood Abstract).

Claim 10, by contrast, specifically recites, "In a computer system comprising a laptop computer adapted to dock to a docking station by way of a USB interface, a method of operating said computer system comprising: powering said laptop computer from said docking station across said USB interface with a voltage in excess of five volts." Applicants respectfully submit that McClurg and Wood do not teach or fairly suggest the limitations of claim 10. The Office action relies on McClurg's fingerprint scanner for a teaching of the claimed laptop computer; however, McClurg's fingerprint scanner is not a laptop computer, and more importantly is not a USB host or master device capable of sourcing power. (See, e.g., Specification page 9, line 10 through page 10, line 6). If hypothetically the teachings of Wood are precisely as the Office action suggests (which Applicants do not admit), the combination still fails to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 10 at least because the combination fails to teach a laptop computer that breaks with USB protocol and accepts power across the USB interface. For this reason alone claims 10 should be allowed.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that Wood teaches "powering ... across said USB interface with a voltage in excess of five volts." Wood's apparatus is specifically designed to be "a model USB citizen," (Wood Col. 12, line 22), and thus does not teach breaking with USB protocol (which powering in excess of five volts would be). While the voltage supplied to Wood's speaker may be in excess of five volts, the signal provided to the speaker is not across a USB interface. Thus, McClurg and Wood fail to teach or suggest

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"powering said laptop computer from said docking station across said USB interface with a voltage in excess of five volts."

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 should be allowed.

B. Claim 20

Claim 20 stands rejected as allegedly obvious over McClurg in view of Wood.

Claim 20 specifically recites, "A docking station for mating with a laptop computer comprising: a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface having data signal lines and power rails that couple to the laptop computer; and a **docking logic that provides power to said laptop over the power rails of the USB interface at a voltage of greater than five volts.**" As taught by the Wood reference, devices connected by USB are either a master USB hub that source power, or USB devices that sink power. (Wood Col. 9, lines 44-62). Moreover, Wood teaches strict adherence to USB protocol, saying its devices are "model USB citizen[s]." (Wood Col. 12, line 22). Thus, if hypothetically McClurg's fingerprint scanner is considered to be the recited laptop computer (which Applicants do not admit is proper for at least the reasons discussed above), McClurg and Wood still fail to teach or suggest parting with USB protocol and "provid[ing] power to said laptop over the power rails of the USB interface at a voltage of greater than five volts," as this breaks with not only USB voltage specifications, but changes the master designation of the laptop.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 should be allowed.

C. Claim 30

Claim 30 stands rejected as allegedly obvious over McClurg in view of Beckert.

Claim 30 specifically recites, "**powering** downstream devices by power rails of a bus interface **of a laptop computer**, the bus interface operated in compliance with the Universal Serial Bus (USB) protocol, and the powering in a first mode of operation; **and accepting**, in a second mode of operation, **power**

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by the laptop computer on the power rails of the bus interface." The Office action relies on McClurg's fingerprint scanner for a teaching of the claimed laptop computer; however, McClurg's fingerprint scanner is not a laptop computer, and more importantly is not a USB host or master device capable of sourcing power. (See, e.g., Specification page 9, line 10 through page 10, line 6; Wood Col. 9, lines 44-62). Thus, if hypothetically the teachings of Beckert are precisely as the Office action suggests (which Applicants do not admit), McClurg and Beckert still fail to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 30 because there is no suggestion or motivation to power external devices by the fingerprint scanner, much less to power external devices across the bus rails of the USB interface. For this reason alone claim 30 should be allowed.

Moreover, claim 30 specifically recites, "powering downstream devices **by power rails of a bus interface** of a laptop computer, **the bus interface operated in compliance with the Universal Serial Bus (USB) protocol**, and the powering in a first mode of operation; and accepting, in a second mode of operation, power by the laptop computer **on the power rails** of the bus interface." Thus, claim 30 defines that the powering, and being powered, are across the same bus rails of a bus interface operated in compliance with the USB protocol. If hypothetically Beckert's USB hub is combined with McClurg's fingerprint scanner (which Applicants do not admit is proper), McClurg and Beckert still fail to teach that power should flow both ways on the same power rails.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 30, and all claims which depend from claim 30 (claims 31-33), should be allowed.

IV. CONCLUSION

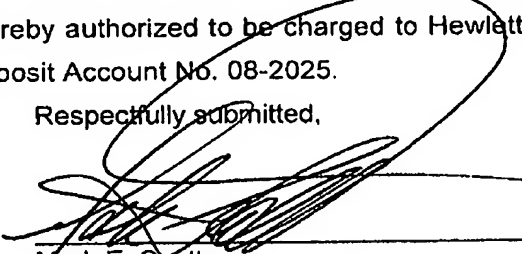
In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may

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be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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